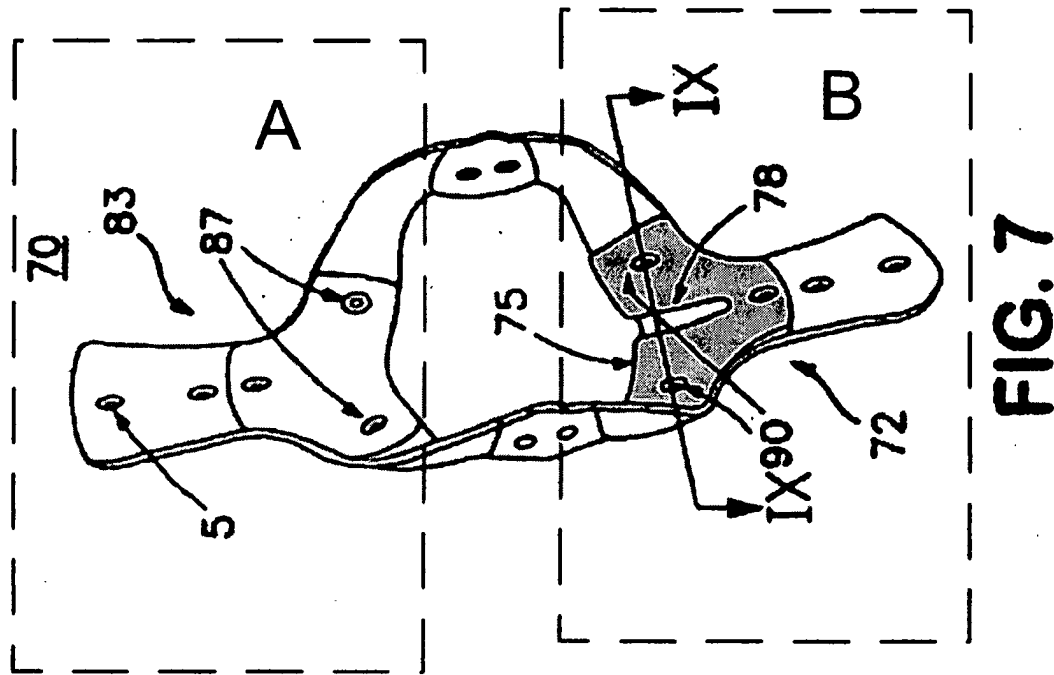


Remarks



Claims 43-69 are pending in the application. Claims 43-69 stand rejected. Claim 43 is currently amended. Support for the claim amendments may be found throughout the specification as filed. A replacement sheet of drawings, and a replacement specification in clean and marked up form are attached hereto. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Replacement Sheet of Drawings

A replacement sheet of drawings in conformance with 37 CFR 1.121 is attached hereto.

In Figure 10, a clerical error regarding the lead line corresponding to reference number 81 has been corrected to indicate the proper area in accordance with Figures 11 and 8. In Figure 7, a typographical error has been corrected so that reference number 5 now reads reference number 85. Support for these modifications may be found in the specification as originally filed, and these modifications do not present new matter.

Replacement specification

A replacement specification, in clean and marked up form, is attached hereto. This replacement specification is provided to correct various typographical errors, and does not present new matter.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 43-69 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Office Action stated that it was not clear how the back plate was part of the knee brace. As currently amended, claim 43 recites, “a support member having an upper cuff portion and a lower cuff portion, the upper cuff portion adapted to be secured adjacent a thigh of a user, and the lower cuff portion adapted to be secured about a tibia of the user, the upper cuff portion or the lower cuff portion having a back plate....”

Referring to the reproduction of Figure 7 above, the upper cuff portion 83 substantially comprises the portion of the brace in the box labeled A. The lower cuff portion 72 substantially comprises the portion of the brace in the box labeled B. Back plate 75 is illustrated as the shaded portion of the brace. As described in the specification, the upper portion of the cuff rests on the side of the wearer, while the lower portion of the cuff rests on the tibia of the wearer. Straps are attached to the upper and lower cuff portions, for example using the attachment points, one of

which is labeled "5." Accordingly, Applicant submits that the back plate is part of the knee brace and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

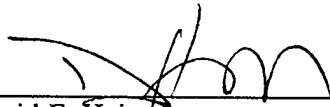
In view of the above, and in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant respectfully requests prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, allowance of Claims 43-69 is solicited. If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this and concurrent replies to charge payment (or credit any overpayment) to Deposit Account No. 50-4562 for any additional required fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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